

American Psychiatric Association

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February 22, 2001

The Honorable Greg Ganske
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ganske:

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), a medical specialty society representing more than 40,000 psychiatric physicians nationwide, I would like to express our support for the principles and concepts set forth in "The Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001" (HR 526).

APA believes that your bipartisan legislative approach offers meaningful patient protections without imposing undue burdens on business or the insurance industry. Most importantly, your bill returns medical decision-making to patients and their physicians. The APA strongly supports "The Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001" which requires point-of-service; direct access to specialty care for management and treatment of chronic conditions; special protections for children; continuity of care; and access to clinical trials. We welcome, appreciate, and endorse with gratitude that your definition of "personal injury" and "irreparable harm" includes mental illness.

Again, thank you for your dedicated leadership on behalf of meaningful patient protection. We welcome the opportunity to work with you for the enactment of the strongest possible patient protection legislation in the current Congress.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Mirin, M.D.
Medical Director

cc: The Honorable John Dingell

